

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:28-9

(date entered 5-12-96)

1. Name: Cherry Grove
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 28/9      3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 17  
Coordinate D-2
4. Address: 17530 New Hampshire Avenue  
Ashton, Md.
5. Classification Summary
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Category <u>building</u>                         | Previous Survey Recording <u>MNCPPC</u>                              |
| Ownership <u>private</u>                         | Title and Date: <u>Historic Sites Inventory</u>                      |
| Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>                    | <u>1976</u>  |
| Status <u>occupied</u>                           |  |
| Accessible <u>no</u>                             | Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u> |
| Present use <u>agriculture/private residence</u> |  |
6. Date: c. 1773      7. Original Owner: Richard Thomas
8. Apparent Condition
- a. good      b. altered      c. original site
9. Description: Built in 1773, the original house consisted of a four bay by two bay, two and a half story structure, constructed of locally fired brick laid up in flemish bond, and facing northeast. To the southeast there is a two bay by two bay one and a half story dependency now connected by a one bay section to the original structure. There are six-over-six double-hung windows set into flat arches. There are three gabled six-over-six dormer windows on the northeast and southwest elevations of the kitchen dependency. The original house and kitchen dependencies have gable roofs with slate tile shingles.
10. Significance: This fine house is associated with distinguished County families. Part of one of the early tracts of land patented in the eastern County, "Snowden's Manor Enlarged," a log house may have been built on this property around 1728 by John Thomas, son-in-law of Richard Snowden. John's son Richard received Snowden's Manor Enlarged and built the present Cherry Grove about 1773 to replace the original log house which was destroyed by fire in 1772. Richard Thomas became one of the largest landowners in the County. He was an active Revolutionary representing lower Frederick County in the Maryland Convention. At his death in 1806, his son William acquired Cherry Grove, and in 1865 William's son Samuel and his wife inherited the property. It was sold out of the family in 1927. Roger and Emily Farquhar lived there in the 1930s and operated a restaurant -- Old Colonial Kitchen. They sold it in 1942. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Riggs, Jr. have held it since 1945, restoring the house to its original 18th century character.

Candy Reed - Arch. Description

11. Researcher and date researched: Geraldine Berkman      7/79
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock      13. Date Compiled: 10/79      14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 30 acres

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cherry Grove

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

17530 New Hampshire Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ashton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. George H. Riggs, Jr.

Telephone #: 774-7092

STREET &amp; NUMBER

17530 New Hampshire Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ashton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20702

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 974

Folio #: 183

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites &amp; HABS 1936

DATE

1976

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This elegant brick Georgian-style house sits on a ridge facing north-east.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the original house consisted of a four bay by two bay, two and a half story structure, constructed of locally fired brick laid up in Flemish bond. The steep A-roof is accented by graceful chimneystacks which rise flush with the north and south end walls. This section has a rounded brick water table and, between the first and second stories, a distinctive brick belt course. Southeast of this structure, and connected by a narrow passageway, is the two bay by two bay, one-and-a-half story kitchen dependency constructed of locally fired brick laid up in common bond. This narrow passageway was enclosed and a window installed sometime later.

The shed roofed porch on the main house was removed by the present owners. There is a simple brick stoop leading to the second bay from the north corner. There is an eight-paneled wooden door supported by heavy strap hinges and surmounted by a transom light. On the southeast elevation there is a six-paneled wooden door. There are six-over-six double-hung windows throughout the house, although those on the upper level are almost half the size of those on the ground floor. One original nine-over-nine window remains on the southwest elevation. The first story flat arches are narrower than the existing windows. A large multi-paned, three-sided, one-story bay window was installed on the southwest elevation. There are two small four-light casement windows in the northwest and southeast gable ends. There are three gabled, six-over-six dormer windows set into the kitchen roof on the northeast and southwest elevations.

The main house and kitchen have separate gable roofs covered by slate tiles. There is a massive interior and fieldstone chimney base with a brick chimney stack at the southeast elevation of the kitchen wing. In addition there are two brick interior end chimneys at the southeast and northwest elevations of the main house. There is a basement under the main house, but only a crawl space under the kitchen wing.

Entering the house from the northeast (front) door, one enters into a large hall. Against the northwest exterior wall there is a two run closed string stairway with turned balusters, a sycamore handrail and a Jacobean newel post. West of the hall is the library, to the south is the dining room and to the southeast is the parlor. Southeast of the main house, the old kitchen (with large fireplace and crane) is now used as a sitting room. Northwest of this room is a modern kitchen wing. To the northwest of the modern kitchen is a glass enclosed porch. Floors throughout the house are random width longleaf North Carolina pine with no subflooring. The parlor, library and dining rooms all have full-field wooden paneling at the exterior end walls behind the fireplaces. This paneling includes built-in cabinets. Fireplace mantle pieces are all molded and each fireplace (except the kitchen's) has a soap stone hearth. The remainder of the walls and ceilings are plaster over lath. Every door is a different height; all the doors have six wooden panels. They are supported in the door frames by HH and HL foliated hinges. Doors have rimlocks and brass knobs.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Cherry Grove

The southwest elevation has been altered by the new kitchen wing and porch additions. At the second story, opening onto these wings, there are two French windows. The flat roof of the addition has a simple wooden railing at the outer edges.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1773

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Thomas?

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Local and family tradition maintains that the present Cherry Grove house replaced a log house which John Thomas built for himself and his bride, Elizabeth Snowden, around 1728 or 1729. John married in 1727,<sup>1</sup> and was well established in the Ashton area at least as early as the 1740s. Thomas' father-in-law was Richard Snowden, who in 1715 acquired "Snowden's Manor", one of the first tracts of land patented in the area. Snowden acquired more land, and in 1745 resurveyed the 9,265 acre "Snowden's Manor Enlarged".<sup>2</sup> He apparently never lived in this part of Maryland. However, his three sons-in-law, James Brooke, Samuel Thomas and John Thomas, were among the first settlers in this region.<sup>3</sup>

In 1747 Richard Snowden deeded to John Thomas 549 acres, "part of a tract of land called Snowden's Manor Inlarged",<sup>4</sup> probably the land upon which John was then living. With his brother-in-law, James Brooke, John built a watermill on the nearby Hawlings River. The mill was referred to in John's will, probated in 1749.<sup>5</sup>

The will does not mention his oldest son Richard, or "Snowden's Manor Enlarged". Probably Richard's portion had already been given him: the Frederick County Debt Books for 1753 and 1755 list for "Mr. John Thomas's Heirs" a 549 acre tract and a 1,480 acre tract; in 1755 a 318 acre property is also listed.<sup>6</sup> By 1761, the estate having apparently been divided, Richard appears in the Debt Book as the owner of the 549 acre "Snowden's Manor".<sup>7</sup> Throughout the rest of his life Richard retained this tract (designated in the records either as "Snowden's Manor" or "Snowden's Enlarged") upon which his home, Cherry Grove, stood.

In the 1783 Montgomery County Tax List the tract "Snowden's Manor Enlarged" includes the "hull of a brick house 32 x 38, 1 framed barn and tobacco house and sundry log houses."<sup>8</sup> From the dimensions given, the "hull of a brick house" is Cherry Grove. According to tradition, the original house was destroyed by fire in 1772 and Richard built the present brick house in its stead; perhaps it remained unfinished in 1783.

Richard Thomas enlarged his landholdings to become one of the chief landowners in Montgomery County. He was an active Revolutionary, forfeiting for this period his membership in the Society of Friends. In 1774 he was among those elected at the Hungerford Tavern meeting to represent Lower Frederick County in the Maryland Convention held in response to the "Intolerable Acts".<sup>9</sup> In 1788 he was elected as a Federalist to the Maryland Convention to ratify the Constitution.<sup>10</sup>

(Continued on Attachment Sheet B)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## Cherry Grove

He died in 1806, his will providing for the manumission of his 112 slaves. Richard's will provided for the equal division of his estate between his two sons Richard and William.<sup>12</sup> William acquired Cherry Grove,<sup>13</sup> and resided there the remainder of his life. Upon his widow's death in 1865, their son Samuel P. Thomas inherited the property. Samuel died in 1898, and his widow Elizabeth retained Cherry Grove until her death in 1909.<sup>14</sup> It then passed to his grandnephew Samuel P. Thomas,<sup>15</sup> who lived there until 1927. In that year Samuel sold the estate to Frank L. Hewitt and Frederick N. Zihlman,<sup>16</sup> who sold it to Emily Jean Adams (later Farquhar) in 1928.<sup>17</sup>

During the 1930's Roger and Emily Farquhar operated a restaurant--The Old Colonial Kitchen--in the house. Members of Congress and other political figures involved with the Roosevelt administration were frequent guests.

The Farquhars sold Cherry Grove in 1942 to David A. Shober,<sup>18</sup> who resold it to the present owners in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Riggs, both architects, have over the years restored the house to its original 18th-century style.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Minutes, Cliffs Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, 1677-1771. Micro Reel M605, Rockville Library. May 14, 1727.
2. Patent, BY & GS No. 4/577 (1745); Maryland Hall of Records.
3. Cook, William G., Montpelier and the Snowden Family, p. 224.
4. Prince Georges County Land Records, BB/382 (February 20, 1747).
5. Frederick County Wills, A/15, Frederick County 1749 (November 24, 1749) (pro.).
6. Frederick County Debt Book, 1753, p. 4; 1755, p. 6.
7. Ibid., 1761, Richard Thomas.
8. Montgomery County Tax List, 1783.
9. MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, p. 31.
10. Ibid., p. 76.
11. Montgomery County Wills, E/340. Also Estate Inventories, 1807. January 5, 1807. December 15, 1806 (pro.).
12. Ibid.
13. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. O/368 (November 14, 1809).
14. Annals of Sandy Spring, V. 4, p. 25.
15. Montgomery County Wills, GCD12/120, December 27, 1898 (pro.).
16. Land Records, Op. Cit., 422/62 (March 5, 1927).
17. Ibid., 458/471 (March 3, 1928).
18. Ibid., 877/209 (April 29, 1942).

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attachment Sheet C

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30 acres (approximately)**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Riggs property is bounded on the northeast by New Hampshire Avenue, on the east and south by F.E. Mars, and on the west and north by M.A. and L.C. Hogan and E. L. and M.J. Riggs, respectively.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Geraldine Berkman

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

July 7, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Cherry Grove

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Annals of Sandy Spring.

Frederick County Debt Books.

Minutes, Cliffs Monthly Meeting, 1677-1771.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Montgomery County Orphans Court Records

Martha Nesbitt's research notes on Thomas family and Sandy Spring Meeting

Interview, Eugenie LeMerle Riggs

James Brooke Day Book



turbances of the Civil War. A few soldiers were buried on the place, and some animals were stolen. Indian burial grounds, also, have been located on the property.

The house is of red brick manufactured on the place with the familiar Flemish bond appearing in the front walls. In the main section you enter a large double parlor with fireplaces in each side. In the wing to the right of this, there are a dining room, a kitchen and a pantry.

On the second floor are four bedrooms and a bath. The date of the house and the name of the builder, as usual, is unknown, but it was probably built by the elder Charles Greenbury Griffith sometime after 1800. As he died in 1864, it must have been considerably before the Civil War, and details indicate construction early in the nineteenth century. It had a detached kitchen with a breezeway where the bay window is now located.

## Cherry Grove



NO. 16 E-10 ORIGINALLY 1729 JOHN THOMAS BURNED AND MAIN HOUSE REBUILT BY  
RICHARD THOMAS 1773 BRICK

**L**OCATED on Parr's Ridge 525 feet above Tidewater half-a-mile south of Ashton on Route 29 and 12 miles north of the District of Columbia line, there has stood for 188 years one of the finest Colonial brick houses in western Maryland. The Cherry Grove house was built in 1773, the year of the Boston "Tea

Party," to replace a log house built on the same site in 1729 which had burned in 1772.

The brick house at Cherry Grove was one of four built by Richard Thomas, (Marse Dicky). It was his own home. The other three were Norwood, Mt. Airy, and Woodlawn. The Cherry Grove property remained in the hands of the

M:28-9

Thomas family for two hundred years from 1727 to 1927. It was on parts of Snowden's Addition to his Manor, a grant of 9,265 acres to Richard Snowden III in 1743 and on part of Snowden's Manor a grant of 1,000 acres in 1715. Richard Thomas also acquired about 2,500 acres by inheritance from his father, John Thomas. The latter married Elizabeth Snowden, a daughter of Richard Snowden III.

The beauty and desirability of the site of this fine house causes one to marvel that the pioneer settler in the wilderness was able to make such a wise choice for his habitation. The house sits on a ridge, the rain from one side of the roof of the house flowing into the Potomac and from the other side into the Patuxent River, although at this point the two rivers are twenty miles apart. Here are pleasing views to the north for fifteen miles and to the south for five miles, which are delightful features of the place. The pioneer settler did not overlook the quality of the soil. It is Chester loam, the most desirable in the state for general farming, for grains, grasses, fruits and most vegetables. Blue grass spreads naturally.

After their marriage John Thomas and Elizabeth Snowden built their log house here in 1729, which was nearly duplicated in the Charley Forest house built the year before by James Brooke and Deborah (Snowden) Brooke. Elizabeth and Deborah were both daughters of Richard Snowden III, the owner of extensive lands. Richard Thomas who figured so notably in local history was born in 1728.

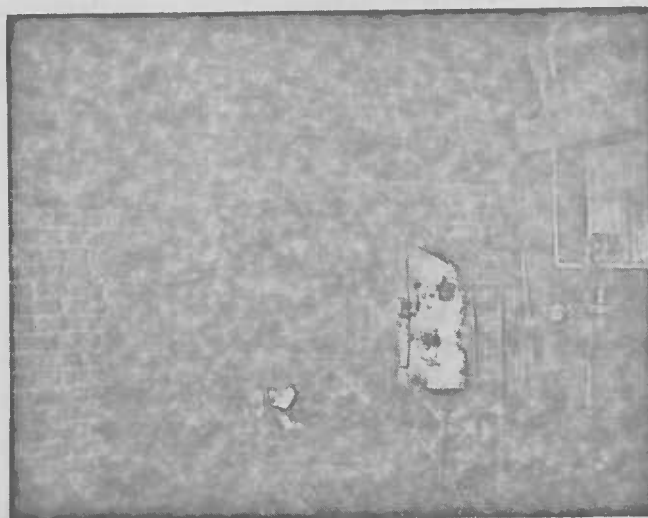
Richard Thomas was very active in the exciting days just prior to the Revolutionary War. He was one of the committee which met at Hungerford's Tavern in what is now Rockville in June, 1774, which defied the Crown and demanded that all commerce with the Mother Country be broken off unless the Stamp Act be repealed. He took part in a similar meeting at Frederick Court House in November, 1774, when he was appointed to carry into execution the resolves of the Continental Congress. In addition to these public services he is credited with being the owner of the only pair of high boots in the community, which he often loaned to neighbors, when they had to make "the hazardous trip" to Annapolis.

Richard Thomas married Sarah Conle about 1750, and upon his death the large plantation passed to his son, William, who married Martha

Patrick. William was born in December, 1771, and family tradition states that when the old Cherry Grove house was in flames, the baby William was bundled up in blankets and put to sleep on the Thomas settee, at a safe place on the lawn. This beautiful family piece, a rare antique made by the famous Quaker cabinet maker, Anthony Poultney, is now a prized piece of furniture in Stratford, the Robert E. Lee homestead in Virginia.

The will of Richard Thomas, probated in December, 1806, provided that 112 slaves be forever free when all males were over twenty-one years and all females over eighteen years of age. There was a long line of slave cabins running out from the rear of the Cherry Grove house. One old slave named Abe, belonging to William and Martha P. Thomas, was a skilled cooper, and what was no doubt his "adze" was dug up on the place in 1932 and is a souvenir retained in the house. Old Abe lived as a pensioner well cared for by the family until 1911.

Illustrating the wild conditions existing in the early days, it is reported that a wildcat climbed into a second story window and was killed in one of the bedrooms. No incidents during the War between the States disturbed the serenity of the old Quaker home. The only thing which seemed to involve the War period was noted by the author when he lived on the farm. In one row in the family apple orchard there were two "Rebel" apple trees, and in the opposite row a "Northern Spy" apple tree!



*Photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston*

COLONIAL KITCHEN, REMNANT OF ORIGINAL HOUSE OF 1728

After the death of William and Martha Thomas, the old home passed by inheritance to Samuel P. Thomas, Sr., and his wife Elizabeth (Porter) Thomas, quiet, kindly Friends greatly admired and beloved by the community. He died in December, 1898, at the age of 83, and Elizabeth died, age 89, in December, 1909. They had no children and the will of Samuel, Sr., provided that Cherry Grove should go to Samuel P. Thomas, a nephew and namesake, after the death of Elizabeth.

Samuel P. Thomas, the heir, born in 1885, married Miriam Snowden who lived at Ingle-side, an adjoining farm, in April, 1911, and they went at once to live at Cherry Grove, which was then beautifully furnished with family antiques. This wedding by Friends ceremony at the home of the bride, in the presence of a large company of friends and relatives, caused some of those present to recall that nearly two centuries before, John Thomas married Elizabeth Snowden and went to live at Cherry Grove. Samuel was a graduate of the University of Maryland, was a skilled pianist, and for a time Master of Olney Grange. Miriam was a talented violinist. There is one son of this union living in 1961, Edward, who is employed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and is building a modern home on the Ashton-Colesville Road just across from Ingleside, the childhood home of his mother, Miriam. The other son, Evan, was drowned in the far west some years ago. Samuel and Miriam were divorced and his second wife was Miss Evelyn Fulks. Miriam married secondly James H. Lampton and she died in November 1950. Samuel P. Thomas died June 14, 1953.

In 1926 the historic old house was closed, passing from the Thomas family, and the family heirlooms were sold, some of them bringing higher prices than had up to that time been known locally.

In 1928 Cherry Grove with thirty acres of land was purchased by Emily J. and Roger B. Farquhar, and the house was fully modernized, redecorated and put in excellent condition. The lawns were beautified with scores of box bushes, flowers and shrubbery.

Cherry Grove was known far and wide for hospitality. One couple came for a short visit and stayed for many years. Richard Thomas's daughter Sarah who married Bernard Gilpin stayed until her fourth child was born; then her

father built Mt. Airy for the couple. Some people said "the front door at Cherry Grove opened itself." The mistress of the house once told the author, "the front door is never locked," and for years this seemed to be true. The place had an atmosphere of dignity which forbade disturbance by trespassers. Truly the "Latch string was always out" at Cherry Grove in those days.

For a few years after 1928, the owners operated the charming old home as a fashionable dining place. Guests from many parts of the country and from abroad came to see the atmosphere of Colonial days recaptured. Appropriately furnished with many period antiques, the charm of the old house in winter, when five or six fires would be blazing in the huge fireplaces, was very appealing. No less welcome on hot summer days was a seat on the shady lawn beneath giant trees, invariably swept by cool breezes, with views of distant houses, enveloped in a blue haze ten or twelve miles away.

Many notable names appear in the guest book of those days. Frequent diners were members of the President's Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, Foreign Diplomats, Military leaders, lawyers, artists, architects, newspaper publishers, and "brain trusters" galore. Many Washington society leaders, with a big "S" entertained in the home.

One memorable gathering was a dinner party given by the late U.S. Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts in January, 1929. It was a farewell party for Senator Peter Goelet Gerry of Rhode Island, who had been defeated for reelection in November, 1928. Eight United States Senators, all Democrats, sat down to a table formed in the shape of a "U," upon which were placed two roast turkeys, two baked home-cured Maryland hams, and all the concomitants of a bountiful feast. The Senators did the carving themselves, and as was to be expected, added anecdotes and repartee to the gayety of the evening. "Hospitality sitting with gladness."

Aside from the enjoyment of food and the sociability, this was an occasion to discuss ways and means of turning the political tide from the Republicans who had won the 1928 Presidential election with The Hon. Herbert Hoover. This party of Senator Walsh's might reasonably be called, "anticipation of the New Deal," for Franklin Roosevelt won the next election in 1932, and that slogan "new deal" was broadcast

around the world. Senator Ashurst is the only one of the eight Senators who attended Senator Walsh's party at Cherry Grove in 1929 surviving in 1961. He is 87 years of age. According to a September press account, Senator Ashurst has agreed to take part in the movie "Advise and Consent" being filmed in Washington. He will pose as a U.S. Senator!!!! Senator Ashurst was the first U.S. Senator from Arizona and served in the Senate from 1912 until 1941.

Another honored guest of Senator Walsh on that night in 1929 was William F. Prettyman, who in 1961 is dean of the Montgomery County Bar, and looks back on many active years of legal laurels in the law, where his family has been distinguished for generations.

The house at Cherry Grove requires more than a casual description. It is of red brick, made in a nearby pit, laid up in Flemish bond by English bricklayers imported for their skill. There is a rounded water table thirty inches above the ground, and the foundations are of rough stone. The main section is thirty-eight feet in front, thirty-three feet wide. Ceilings on the first floor are ten feet high and on the second floor seven feet high. The outside walls are thirteen inches thick on the first floor and nine inches thick on the second floor. There is a full attic, and a full cellar under the main part only.

In research by experts for the restoration of Williamsburg, and also for Wakefield, it was reported that a few bricks at first were brought from England, but with "the fine native clays available" it was not long before brickmakers

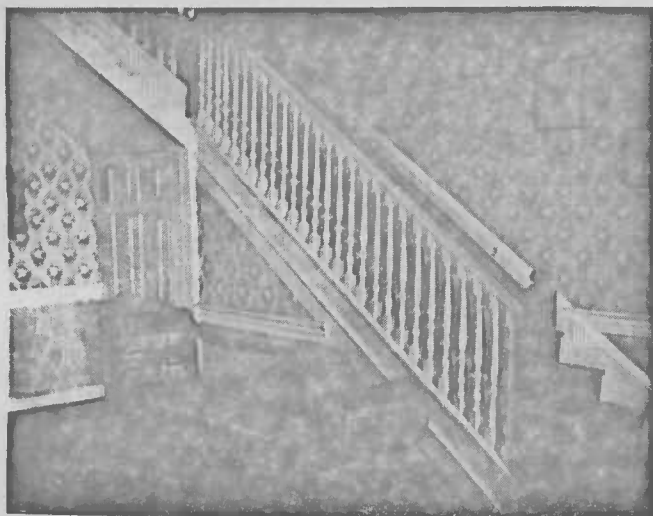
were brought to America, and importation ceased. We are quite certain that is what "Marsy Dick" did, when building the houses credited to his skill.

The parlor, library and dining room all have their ends paneled to the ceiling around large fireplaces which have soapstone hearths and backs. This paneling is skillfully executed and perfectly preserved. Many six-paneled doors have the Colonial "HH" and "HL" hinges "foliated" and the massive original front and library doors have strap or "barn-door hinges" their full width.

The front hall, in the right-hand part of the main section, has a wide stairway with antique spindles and sycamore handrail. On the left is the parlor and behind the hall is the library. Behind the parlor is the dining room, and behind that in the wing is a modern kitchen. Most of the floors are of longleaf North Carolina pine in good condition.

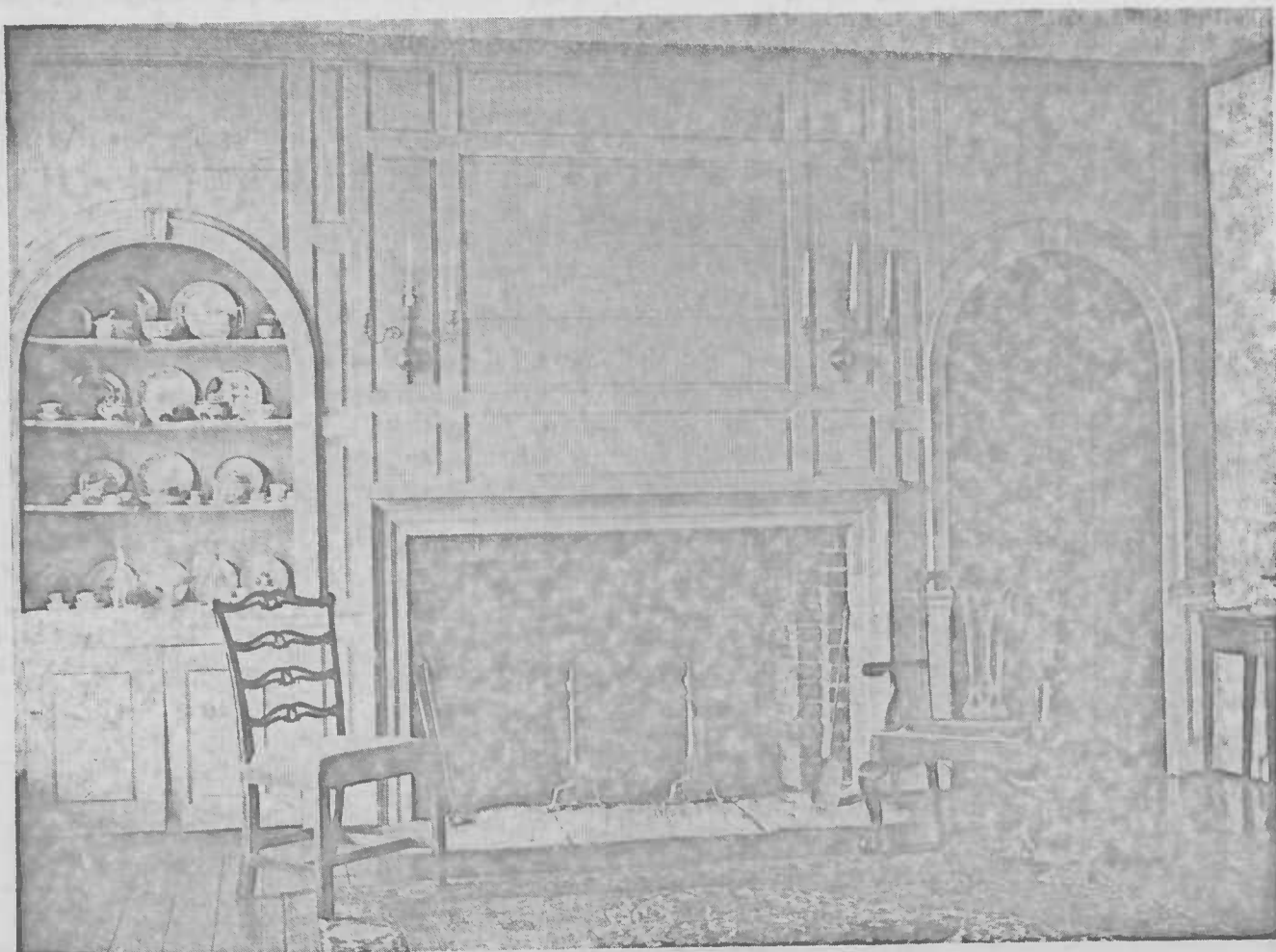
In the east or left-hand end of the lower wing, the feature room of the house, the Old Colonial kitchen is located. Its fireplace, a remnant of the original log house—with bake oven door still in the wall—is eight feet wide, five feet high, and three feet deep with a large crane still in use. This wing originally had a hip roof, which was blown off in a storm in 1896 and was replaced by a flat tin roof. In 1932 the owners removed this unsightly and incongruous feature, and reconstructed the plain hip roof with three dormers. The marks of the original roof were visible on the gable end and were followed, thus restoring the original Colonial appearance of the house. There are five bedrooms on the second floor, and two modern baths have been added.

In 1942 Cherry Grove, restored to its original beauty and charm, was sold by the Farquhars to David A. Shoher who in three years re-sold to George H. Riggs, a Washington architect, the owner in 1961. Mr. Riggs is a direct descendent of Hon. Henry Griffith I, the great leader of the Revolutionary men in 1774, who met at Hungerfords Tavern, and defied the British Empire. Henry's daughter Ruth, married Amos Riggs, and thus the descent is made clear to Mr. George H. Riggs of Cherry Grove. Mrs. George Riggs' maiden name was Eugénie Le Merle. They have three sons as follows: Eugene LeMerle Riggs, whose wife was Mary Jane Dridges of Florida. They have two boys. Ravenel La Barre Riggs,



STAIRWAY, CHERRY GROVE





CHERRY GROVE LIVING ROOM

a student in architecture at Tulane University, New Orleans. The youngest son, Barrymore DuVal Riggs II, was born at Cherry Grove and is a student at Sherwood, November 16, 1961.

The death of "Mr. Sam" Rayburn, October 5, 1961, causes the author to vividly recall a visit he made to Cherry Grove in the Spring of 1928.

A rather shabby black automobile drove into the yard one forenoon. When the "Host" at the Inn met the car in the circle of the driveway, two men emerged from the vehicle. The first was Honorable Hatton W. Sumners, a former judge from Texas, then a member of the House of Representatives, whom the Host knew; then a short, stout man alighted and was introduced as "Mr. Rayburn," Congressman from Texas.

With the Host's desire to be hospitable, the gentlemen were invited into the Cherry Grove house, but this invitation was declined and both

the visitors proceeded to sit down on the lawn under the big ash tree, then standing near the "Old Colonial Kitchen" corner of the house. There the three of us sat for half an hour asking and answering questions about "farming practices and conditions in this area of Montgomery County."

As our discussion was ending, Judge Sumners asked "We wonder if it would be possible to obtain some good home-cooked food hearabouts?" The Host assured them that they had "come to just the right place."

A modest luncheon was served them on trays on the lawn as I recall, and they proceeded on their way . . . two "born farmers at heart," looking over Montgomery County "Old Homes" and farms.

Mr. Rayburn had then been in Congress since 1912, and was to go on and become elected

Speaker 12 years later and to serve in that high post for 17 years, longer than any other Speaker in history.

A great man, he climbed to great heights, yet never lost the "common touch."

"A grace, though melancholy, manly too, molded his being; pensive, grave, serene. O'er his habitual bearing and his mien, unceasing pain, by patience tempered, threw a shade of sweet austerity."

Henry Taylor

## Chevy Chase



NO. 130 I-9 THOMAS BELT CA. 1760-'65 FRAME

ON THE grounds of the luxurious Chevy Chase Club located on the southwest corner of Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane one-half mile north of Chevy Chase Circle the house shown above stood for about a century-and-a-half until destroyed by fire shortly after World War I, about 1921 to 1922. For more than a century it was the cherished home of the Bradley family who were persons of importance in the affairs of Montgomery County and Washington.

Bits of evidence and records pieced together by the author indicate that the frame house was probably built before 1760. Traditions place it

in the Pre-Revolutionary period, and certain heavy hand-hewed timbers which withstood the conflagration of 1922 are evidence supporting very early construction. One of these timbers is preserved in the newer frame house on the site, and the original chimney is intact.

Where Western Avenue, which coincides with the Maryland-District of Columbia boundary, intersects Chevy Chase Circle a large boulder has been placed by the Society of Colonial Wars. Set into the stone is a bronze tablet as a memorial to "Colonel Joseph Belt, Maryland, 1680-1761; Patentee of Chevy Chase; Trustee of the first free schools of Maryland; Member of

1607265104

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Cherry Grove				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 17530 New Hampshire Ave.				
CITY OR TOWN: Ashton				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)		<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<b>PRESENT USE</b> (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. George H. Riggs				
STREET AND NUMBER: 17530 New Hampshire Ave.				
CITY OR TOWN: Ashton		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.		STATE:		

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT, AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an elegant brick house, built in the local Georgian style of the 18th Century. The main house is of three bays, with a door in the north end bay. There is a steep A-roof, accented by graceful chimneystacks that rise flush with the north and south end walls. The present roof is slate. The walls are laid in Flemish bond, and feature a belt course between the first and second floors, a watertable, and ground and gauged flat arches over the windows. All window sash is 6/6, but those on the upper level are almost half the size of those on the ground floor. There is a smaller, remodeled wing of similar design attached to the south end. (See old photos in Farquhar scrapbook at Mont. Co. Historical Soc. & HABS 1936 photos. Also, see enclosed description of the interior by the present owner, Mrs. Eugenie LeMerle Riggs, who is an architect.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | lasophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the earliest homes in Mont. Co. Considerable architectural and historical significance. (See history in Farquhar.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1962) pp. 114-19.
- 2) H.A.B.S. 1936 photos.
- 3) Farquhar, W.B. ANNALS OF SANDY SPRING, MD. (1884)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 8/13/75
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave.	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Cherry Grove of brick made locally  
 up on Flemish bond. Early kitchen  
 fireplace <sup>with crane</sup> it is 8 ft long 4 ft high with curved  
 arching <sup>beef line</sup> Opening to bake oven inside  
 rear of fireplace. typical of the 1729  
 period when built.

Main house rebuilt c 1773 after a  
 fire but followed the style for build-  
 c 1725 with ends of all rooms on first  
 floor parallel and without mantel shelves.  
 All floors except one original. Nearly all  
 trim doors and hinges original. Stair  
 way with turned balusters & straight  
 stringer shows Jacobean influence.  
 Windows changed c 1840 and porches  
 added.

Located on Route 1050

17530 New Hampshire Ave



Cherry Grove

Ashton Md

AUG 1980

Front

M: 28-9

An out of focus

picture

taken by a Real estate

Agent

I will make some better pictures



Cherry Grove M. 86-9

Ashton Md

Rear

AUG 1980

Out of focus picture

taken by a Real Estate Agent

I will get some better  
pictures





NAME CHERRY GROVE M:28-9  
LOCATION N. H. AVE ASHTON, Md  
FACADE SE  
PHOTO TAKEN 8/13/75 MOWYER